

Appl. No. 09/881,229
Amdt. Dated June 2, 2004
Reply to Office action of March 10, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P14395-US1
EUS/J/P/04-3123

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 2-3, 16, 19, 21, and 25-28; claims 1 and 24 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 2-23 and 25-28 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-20, 22, 23 and 26-28 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 24 have been canceled and the limitations of these two claims have been incorporated with the allowable limitations of claim 3 and 26 respectively. Amended claims 3 and 26 are now independent. The Applicants submit that claims 2, 21 and 25, which now depend directly from claims 3 and 26 respectively, contain the same novel limitations of independent claims 3 and 26. The Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments have placed the claims in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,192,037 B1 issued to Spear (hereinafter *Spear*). Claims 1 and 24 have been canceled and the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Spear* in view of *Kawano et al.* (US 006564052B1). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 2.

Amended claim 2 now depends from independent claim 3, which contains allowable limitations. Claim 2 contains the allowable limitations of claim 3 and the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.

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Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spear in view of Naqvi *et al.* (US 0066254202B1). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 21.

Amended claim 21 now depends from independent claim 3, which contains allowable limitations. Claim 21 contains the allowable limitations of claim 3 and the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spear in view of Hess *et al.* (US 005471670A). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 25.

Amended claim 25 now depends from independent claim 3, which contains allowable limitations. Claim 25 contains the allowable limitations of claim 3 and the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.

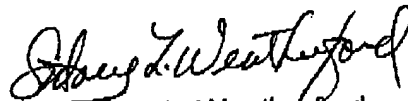
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for Claims 2-23 and 25-28.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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